

Thank you to the members of the Labor committee for allowing me to testify this afternoon. My name is Terry Lee, and I live in Bridgeport. I have been a homecare worker for 8 years. I am also a member of 1199 because I work as a CNA at Fairview of Fairfield nursing home in Southport. I am here today to ask you to support the Domestic Worker's Bill of Rights.

As a homecare worker, I understand the difficulty of working in someone else's home. I know many people who do similar work. It is tough! We have not had a raise in four years, and we actually took a wage cut in 2010 because we had to start paying for unemployment out of our own pockets.

I love taking care of others. Currently, I care for three clients. One of my clients lives in Stratford and the other two live in Trumbull. I do everything for my clients. I cook, clean, bathe them, dress them, and anything else they need. I also take care of my disabled sister when I get home. She is lucky to have family that cares for her. Some people are not so lucky.

At the nursing home, we have breaks, sick days, vacation time, decent wages, and protection from discrimination. Domestic workers often work for less than minimum wage. They usually don't have healthcare coverage, or any say in their job. The state should make sure they are able to have the same basic rights as other workers. Asking to feel safe and comfortable where you work should not be so difficult.

Please pass the Domestic Worker's Bill of Rights. People should not have to be afraid to stand up for their rights in the workplace, even if it is someone's home.

Terry Lee
473 Success Avenue
Bridgeport, CT
203-209-7148